

Mountain Sentinel.

"WE GO WHERE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES POINT THE WAY;—WHEN THEY CEASE TO LEAD, WE CEASE TO FOLLOW."

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Senators, and Members of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—A renewal of expressions of gratitude to the Almighty Father, for his manifold mercies and protecting influences during the past year, and the utterance of a prayer "in spirit and in truth," for the continuance of these blessings well become a people who habitually acknowledge the superintending care of a just and merciful God. The abundant harvest of the late season, the general exemption of the community from disease, the rapidly improving condition of the country, in all things which confer happiness and rational contentment, increased facilities of education, and the enjoyment of religious privilege in its purest forms, admonish us anew, that the destiny of this people and government is directed by the power of a Supreme Ruler, whose kindly providences are continually exerted for their welfare, and its well being.

The melancholy duty devolves on me of formally announcing to the General Assembly, the fact of the decease of the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, the venerable ZACHARY TAYLOR, who died at the City of Washington, on the 9th of July last.

The soldier whose brilliant achievements in arms added new lustre to the military fame of the country, and the Statesman whose policy, as shadowed forth in his recommendations to Congress, was that of the wisest and most generous patriot, died in the full possession of his great mental faculties, surrounded by endeared relatives, cherished friends, and patriotic members of government, with the calm resignation becoming a Christian soldier, and founded on the faith, which teaches that death has no terrors for those who faithfully endeavor to do their duty. The American paid the highest tribute to his memory by united and universal sorrow.

In the purity and disinterestedness of his motives, the patriotism of every impulse as affecting his public conduct, the perfect sincerity of his desire to act justly to all men, his winning gentleness of temper as manifested in his personal deportment, were to be found traits of character, which bound closely to him his confidential friends, and gave to their sorrow for his demise a bitterness which no lapse of time or change of circumstances can alleviate.

It is recommended that a suitable expression of respect for the memory of the deceased, and of regret for our bereavement, be made by the present Legislature.

On the death of General Taylor, by the provisions of the Constitution, the powers and duties of the Chief Magistracy were vested without the least interruption of the public business, in Vice President Millard Fillmore, whose virtue and patriotism as manifested in the discharge of former trusts, as well in the administration thus far of his new functions, justify the confident expectation, that in the policy of the National Administration will eminently promote the best interests of the country. In its avowal of the great principle of protection to American Industry, it has an especial claim on the confidence of Pennsylvania.

Resolutions expressive of the feelings of the last Legislature on the death of John C. Calhoun, were communicated to his family. I herewith transmit the correspondence.

The amendment to the State Constitution, providing for the election by the citizens of the judicial officers of the Commonwealth, having received the sanction of a majority of the people is now part of the organic law. Your attention is invited to such legislation as may be necessary to carry into complete effect, this expression of the popular will. By the terms of the Constitution, the commissions of the Judges will expire on the first Monday in December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty one. It is suggested that this will afford a favorable opportunity to remodel and greatly lessen the number of judicial districts. At present there are no less than twenty-four judicial districts, with District Courts in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties. A reference to the vast amount of business transacted in these last named courts, affords conclusive evidence that the interests of the community demand their continuance. Should a reduction be made in the Common Pleas districts, the salaries now paid to the Judges ought to be increased to such extent as would be a fair remuneration for the labor performed, and the responsibility incurred in the execution of the duties of their high offices. It is no part of the character of our citizens to require the labors of others without adequate compensation. Fair salaries will

best secure the services of honest, intelligent and competent men, in that department of government, in the faithful administration of which every citizen is so deeply interested. An increase of the salaries of the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas and District Courts, would demand the extension of the same liberality to such gentlemen as may be selected to discharge the higher and more responsible duties of Judges of the court of last resort.

Two annual elections appear to impose unnecessary burthens upon the citizens. Expense to the general treasury, and loss of time to the voter, could be well saved by authorising the elections now held in the spring, to be holden at the general election in October. To such counties desiring to try the experiment, the right might be granted. I have been furnished with a statement of the expense incurred by holding Spring elections in Dauphin County, and if the amount is a fair average of the expense to the other counties, the change indicated will save to the people of the Commonwealth annually upwards of thirty thousand dollars.

The project of creating an Agricultural Department connected with the State Government demands the favorable consideration of the Legislature. In such department might be collected much valuable information for the use of the practical farmer. The recent improvements in the construction of implements of husbandry, the analysis of the earth, improved modes of tillage, and adaptation of manures and seeds to various kinds of soil, are subjects of absorbing interest to the agricultural classes. Diffusion of knowledge respecting the best breeds of horses, cattle, and other stock, with suggestions in an authorized and reliable form, and experimental expositions of the proper modes of rearing and training live stock of all kinds, could not fail to act beneficially, on this great interest of the Commonwealth. Should the National government erect an agricultural bureau, in conformity with the suggestion of the President, the State institution would be an efficient auxiliary in the collection of local information, and for the distribution here at home of knowledge amassed in that department from other sources. In this establishment, the claims of the mining, mechanical, and manufacturing interests on the fostering care of the government might be equally regarded. A private society in our metropolitan city by its liberality, activity and learning has done much to develop and encourage the arts and sciences, useful in every day life, and has largely aided our mechanics and manufacturers to gain a reputation throughout the world. By the measure proposed, I desire to accomplish for the advancement of the agricultural, mechanical, and mining industry of the whole Commonwealth, what the Franklin Institute has done for those interests which have enjoyed the benefits of its discriminating care. County and township institutions would speedily follow the creation of a State department, and by mutual action and counsels, results would follow, highly gratifying to the patriot, and beneficial to the country.

Should the returns of the seventh census of the United States be transmitted in time, the apportionment of the State into congressional districts may become part of your duty. In such event, it is hoped the custom heretofore pursued of postponing action on important bills of this description to the last hours of the session will be changed. It is a practice utterly inconsistent with careful and correct legislation, and destructive of the rights of a co-ordinate branch of the Government.

The committee charged with the introduction of gas lights into the public buildings, have complied so far as in their power with the directions of the Legislature. An appropriation to meet these expenses and to enclose and improve the public grounds, should be made at an early day.

A complete set of balances, furnished to the State by the General Government, have been deposited in the buildings of the Land Office. The commissioners of the several counties ought to be required to have the weights and measures under their care again adjusted and regulated.

An arrangement of the geological specimens belonging to the State, in some convenient place for general inspection, and the publication of the geological reports, are demanded alike by the true interests of the State and a just appreciation of her character for enlightened enterprise.

My attention has been called to the large body of original papers in the State department, connected with the colonial and revolutionary history of the State, and their extremely exposed and perishing condition. These records are worth preservation, as containing authentic information of the action of our fathers in the struggle for national existence. In the capital of Pennsylvania, and with the sympathies of her patriotic people, was

independence matured and declared. Her soldiers were most numerous around the standard of the nation, and there were more battle fields on her soil than in the same area elsewhere. Every memorial of those days of devotion and trial should be faithfully preserved. There exists a single copy in manuscript of the minutes of the Revolutionary Executive Council, a document by far too valuable to remain longer within the reach of accident or mutilation. It would be gratifying to a large body of our constituents if the Assembly would authorize the employment of a competent gentleman to select and arrange for publication these memorials of an interesting epoch in the history of the Commonwealth.

In the early spring the buildings of the Insane Asylum will be ready for the reception of patients. This work of charity, worthy of the best care of the philanthropist, from its admirable construction and healthful location, cannot fail to answer the ends of its benevolent founders. It deserves the fostering care of the Legislature.

In the performance of your duties, attention is most earnestly directed to the revision of the laws in relation to taverns, restaurants, beer houses, and ten-pin alleys. It is alleged that in many instances they are made the common resort of the young, the idle, and the worthless, to the great detriment of the moral well being of the rising generation.

The suggestions and recommendations of former messages in reference to the equalization of Tax laws, payment of portions of the public debt overdue the currency, and public improvements, are again pressed on your attention. The loan authorized at the last session to redeem the overdue public debt, has not been negotiated.

The financial condition of the Commonwealth is exhibited in the following statements:

Amount of the funded debt including amount to the hands of Commissioners of Sinking Fund, and also a special loan to avoid Inclined Plane at the Schuylkill, on the 30th of November, 1850, was \$39,862,914 78
Amount of unfunded debt, same date, 912,570 64

Total sum of debt, \$40,775,485 42
In this gross sum is included the loan to avoid the Plane at the Schuylkill, as above stated—the avoidance of the plane authorized the sale of that portion of the Columbia Railroad and Viaduct over the Schuylkill, rendered useless by the construction of the new road. A part of the road and bridge was sold for \$243,200, which amount is to be applied as directed by the 18th section of the Act of the 10th of April, 1849, towards the permanent improvement of the Columbia railway. The actual cost of this great improvement, whereby the Plane has been avoided, the use of the public works much facilitated, and an annual saving of thirty-one thousand dollars, secured to the Treasury, in the disuse of the machinery and labor necessarily connected with the plane, is shown as follows:

Amount of cost of new road, say \$400,000 00
Deduct price of old road sold, 243,000 00

The Sinking Fund operation is exhibited thus:
Amount of funds received during year, \$197,193 74
Amount of stocks purchased during year, 345,022 08
Amount in hands of Commissioners on 30th Nov., 1850, 5,967 60
Whole amount received since commencement of system, 424,532 75
Whole amount of stocks purchased, 459,122 98
Amount of money in hands on 30th Nov., 1850, 5,967 60

FURTHER EXPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.
Amount of debt on 30th Nov., 1850, \$40,775,485 42
Amount of stocks and cash in hands of commissioners of Sinking Fund, \$165,030 53
Deduct amount of special loan—the interest thereon saved in the discountance of the Plane 400,000 00
\$39,910,394 84

Amount of debt on 30th Nov., 1848, \$39,393,350 24
Unpaid, 1,081,386 69
Total, \$40,474,736 93

and 1850, being debts prior to 1st of Dec., 1848, 373,961 48
Total indebtedness, \$40,848,398 41
Actual indebtedness, including Inclined plane loan on 30th of Nov., 1850, and excluding amount in hands of sinking fund Commissioner, \$40,310,394 84

Actual decrease of public debt since 30th Nov., 1848, \$538,203 57
Within the same period, there has been paid from the Treasury appropriations, that may be called extraordinary, as follows:

Towards completion of North Branch Canal To avoid Inclined Plane, 309,446 02
If these sums, from the payment whereof the Treasury will be relieved by the completion of the improvements above stated, be added to the actual reduction of public debt above exhibited, the conclusion is clear, that at a very early date, an annual appropriation of nearly one million dollars may be made towards the reduction of the public debt.

Annexed is an estimate of the receipts and expenditures of the present, with the estimate of last year, and the actual receipts at the Treasury.

RECEIPTS.
Estimates for 1850 for 1850 for 1851

	Estimates for 1850	Receipts for 1850	Estimates for 1851
Lands	\$20,000	\$16,378 58	\$16,000
Auction commission	22,000	18,673 75	20,000
Auct. duties	59,000	44,898 22	45,000
Tax on bank dividends	130,000	153,877 14	160,000
Tax on corporation stock	160,000	136,510 14	160,000
Tax on real estate	1,330,000	1,317,824 55	1,330,000
License Tax	80,000	107,427 49	100,000
Retainers	160,000	171,062 26	175,000
Notaries	3,000	2,525 05	3,000
Brokers	12,000	10,222 73	11,000
Theatres	3,000	2,384 59	2,500
Billiard rooms	5,000	3,015 81	4,000
Distillery	1,500	4,203 91	5,000
Printing houses	15,000	6,530 97	10,000
Patent medicine	3,000	2,633 08	3,000
Pamphlet laws	500	345 58	500
Mul. fines	2,000	12,933 73	10,000
Tax on Writs	4,000	45,409 47	45,000
On offices	20,000	14,047 21	25,000
On collateral inheritance	200,000	102,295 07	150,000
Canal Road	1,825,000	1,713,848 16	1,800,000
Tolls	5,000	6,933 64	5,000
Sale of old materials	11,000	10,270 60	12,000
Enrollment of laws	40,000	89,272 21	40,000
Printing on bills	125,000	119,356 30	120,000
Tax on loans	270,000	270,000 00	
Inclined plane loan	2,000	2,460 00	2,000
Turkey stocks	300		
Nicholson lands	5,000	3,674 32	5,000
Refunded cash	5,000	13,278 61	5,000
Escheats	2,000		1,000
Fees of Public officers	2,000	3,687 20	4,000
Miscellaneous	2,000	1,743 33	5,000
Interest on stocks purchased	15,000	13,721 27	30,000
Foreign Insurance Agencies		2,760 63	3,000
	\$4,566,300	4,438,131 51	4,296,000

PAYMENTS.
Estimate for 1850. Payments for 1850.

Public Improvements	\$640,000	\$1,488,799 74
Exp's of Government	235,000	262,899 71
Militia	4,000	16,282 25
Pensions	20,000	17,277 91
Charitable Inst., Com'n Schools	80,000	62,237 85
Int'n loans	2,005,000	2,004,714 51
Guaranties	32,500	32,500 00
Domestic cred'ts	10,000	6,387 41
Dam. on public works	20,000	28,065 34
Special Commissioners	2,000	2,554 03
State Library	2,000	1,000 00
Pub. buildings	2,000	2,002 78
Penitentiaries	15,000	19,283 79
House of Refuge	5,000	6,000 00
Nicholson lands	300	192 75
Escheats	2,000	1,740 53
Abate't of State Tax	40,000	43,526 04
Counsel fees & Com's	2,000	5,984 15
Miscellaneous	5,000	8,180 44
Sinking fund Commissioners	293,000	318,864 03

Inclined plane, 270,000
North Branch Canal, 150,000
\$4,034,800 \$4,553,193 75

ESTIMATE OF PAYMENTS FOR 1851.

Public Improvements	\$800,000
Expenses of Government	250,000
Militia	15,000
Pensions	15,000
Charitable Institutions, Common Schools	60,000
Interest on loans	200,000
Guaranties	2,005,000
Domestic Creditors	32,000
Damages on public works	10,000
Special Commissioners	2,000
State Library	2,000
Public Buildings	10,000
Penitentiaries	15,000
House of Refuge	5,000
Nicholson Lands, Escheats	300
Abatement of State Tax	40,000
Counsel fees and Commissioners	5,000
Miscellaneous	5,000
Sinking Fund Commissioners	250,000
Inclined Plane	90,000
North Branch Canal	250,000
Renewal of Relief Notes	10,000
Expenses of Revenue Commissioners	2,500
	\$4,101,300

In the item of expenditures for public improvements is included \$148,500 paid to North Branch canal and \$286,446 02 to avoid Inclined Plane.

In the amounts received from canal and railroad tolls and collateral inheritance taxes, the actual receipts of the last year fall short of the estimates. In making these estimates it was supposed the suggestion of a former message in relation to the conveyance of passengers on the Columbia railway would have been favorably regarded. It is still believed that a largely increased revenue would attend the adoption of the changes heretofore recommended. That the collateral inheritance tax is inefficiently and carelessly collected in some of the counties, and even when collected frequently retained in the hands of the officers longer than necessary, is demonstrable by the fact of the great disproportion received at the treasury from counties of equal population, business, and wealth. A statement of the amounts received from the several counties during the last four years, will exhibit much valuable information on the interesting question of inequality of taxation in the payment of the public debt. All items of taxation applicable to the sinking fund should be required to reach the treasury quarterly under the severest penalties.

A reference to the reports of the Adjutant General, Auditor General, Surveyor General and Superintendent of Commonwealth schools, will afford detailed information of the business of their several departments, and furnish views and suggestions of interest to the general weal.

The school system, although still imperfect, is rapidly improving in its general condition, and promises the beneficial results it was designed to accomplish. The education of the people is the great question of the age, and as such it cannot fail to command your earnest and enlightened efforts for its speedy and ultimate success.

In the competition for trade and travel, no effort for the full repair of the canals, and railroads of the State should be neglected. The deteriorating condition of many of these works, admonish us that the system of supervision is ineffectual to secure the return of which their construction gave confident assurance. In a system of divided responsibility in their management, the difficulty evidently exists. On a former occasion it was suggested to divide the State into Canal and Railway districts, and allot to each a Canal Commissioner, to whom its entire control should be given. This project is again recommended, but should it fail to meet your approbation, the proposition of selecting a Superintendent, to whom for his whole time and attention, a compensating salary should be paid, and under whose sole control the public works might be placed, is worthy of consideration. All the evils arising from divided counsels and shifting responsibilities would be avoided, and that energy and skill in their management secured which cannot be expected under the present system. It is alleged this method of supervision of public works has succeeded well and beneficially in other States.

A commercial connection between Philadelphia and Europe by steamships, an enterprise truly worthy the favoring regards of the whole Commonwealth and the countenance and aid of the national government by the extension of mail facilities—the completion of the great Railway communication now in rapid progress

of construction to the navigable waters of the West, the thorough repair of the Cumberland Valley road, and the erection of various lines of Railway in the valley of the Susquehanna, must throw an amt of trade on the Columbia Railroad which will demand for its transit the entire capacity of that thoroughfare in a condition of perfect repair. Every avenue by which the trade of the West, as well as of Central and Northern Pennsylvania reaches Philadelphia, ought to be opened and kept in such perfect condition as to afford all possible facility to business, for in the growth and welfare of Philadelphia, the entire people should feel a lively interest, as identical with the prosperity of the whole State. Whilst the internal trade is poured into our metropolis, and her local authorities are doing their part to promote her commerce, it is our duty to demand from the General government some portion of its resources for the security and improvement of the harbor of the Delaware. Improvement of the navigable rivers and protection of the harbors of the Ocean and Lakes ought to be no longer delayed.

In this connexion I deem it my duty to call your attention to the pending litigation in relation to the bridge over the Ohio river at Wheeling, erected under the authority of Virginia, which, it is confidently asserted, puts in jeopardy large commercial interests. It has been my care to watch the progress of the controversy, and to direct the proper law officer of the Commonwealth, associated with the other distinguished gentlemen who professionally represent the State, to protect these interests before the judicial tribunal which has cognizance of the case under the Constitution.

In the various railway projects now severally terminating in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburg, the people of the Commonwealth ought never to lose sight of that other great enterprise which, known as the Sunbury and Erie railroad, was meant to connect the Susquehanna, the Delaware and the Lakes. Besides the command of the trade of the Northern Seas secured by its construction, it would bring into market for sale and settlement vast bodies of untenanted and unimproved lands, and develop treasures of inexhaustible mineral wealth now wholly inaccessible.

The large indebtedness of the State and the necessity for its reduction, forbid the policy on her part of embarking in these various improvements.

The debt of the Commonwealth was incurred in the erection of works which were largely conducive to the settlement and sale of the domain of the United States, and while she has secured no part of this common inheritance, other States have been liberally aided in the construction of their internal improvements by donations of public lands. It is a right on her part to demand a portion of these lands to aid in the completion of the important works partially completed and in contemplation.

A system of banking, based upon State stocks, under proper restrictions, is recommended to the attention of the Legislature. It is thought that the present banking facilities are unequal to the wants of the business community. The large amount of notes of banks of other States found in circulation among our people, the inability of the banks, with safety to their credit, to accommodate at all times the active bona fide business demands of the country, and the large operations in the nature of private banking daily transacted on severe terms to the borrower, demonstrate that increased facilities are demanded to secure a healthy development of our resources. Any considerable extension of the present system is hardly to be anticipated, nor is it desirable, if a more permanent basis for such operations can be devised. Free banking upon a deposit and pledge of public stocks early recommended itself to favor. It is not liable to sudden expansions and contractions, is more secure from failure, less obnoxious to counterfeiting and fraud, and offers undoubted security to the note holder. Should the stock required be the loans of the Commonwealth it would appreciate their value, and also have a tendency to withdraw them from foreign countries, to which are annually sent millions of the public money to pay interest. A recall of these stocks, and the discharge of the interest to the resident citizens, would lead to the expenditure of an equal amount at home, thereby affording employment to the people in the improvements of the State, in the erection of industrial institutions, and in various works of beauty and taste. If this system is favorably regarded, a relinquishment of a portion of the interest on the stocks pledged would be directly advantageous to the Treasury.

The confidence felt in their security, and the desire to use the relief notes, when kept in good condition, justify the belief